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West Jessamine softball grabs pair of wins. **Page 10A**

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# THE JESSAMINE JOURNAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 | VOL. 154 ISSUE 17

Serving Jessamine County Since 1873

## Nicholasville drug operation nets 47 kilos of cocaine

Staff Report

NICHOLASVILLE — A multi-agency drug enforcement operation resulted in the seizure of 47 kilograms of cocaine valued at more than \$2 million, along with \$15,000 in cash and a firearm, the Nicholasville Police Department announced.

The operation, conducted by the department's Drug Enforcement Unit with assistance from task force officers, DEA agents and other investigators, followed months of surveillance and intelligence gathering targeting a fentanyl

and cocaine trafficking organization with ties to Mexico, according to police.

Couriers linked to the organization were taken into custody overnight in the area of Man o' War Boulevard and Boston Road in Lexington. Investigators also executed a search warrant at the Hampton Inn on East Brannon Road in Nicholasville, where additional evidence was recovered.

Four individuals are facing federal prosecution as a result of the operation, police said. Their names have not been released.

Authorities described the case as a significant disruption to a trafficking pipeline that law enforcement agencies across central Kentucky have been working to dismantle. Fentanyl, often mixed with or sold alongside cocaine, has been a major factor in overdose deaths across the region in recent years.

The Nicholasville Police Department said the investigation remains ongoing, and additional arrests or charges are possible.



Seized evidence from a multi-agency drug investigation, including approximately 47 kilograms of suspected cocaine, \$15,000 in cash and a firearm.



Ed Easterly III, center, celebrates his 95th birthday April 20 at his Nicholasville home, surrounded by family, friends and neighbors during a gathering in his honor.

## Former Journal owner Easterly celebrates 95th birthday

By Christopher Brown  
The Jessamine Journal

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. — Ed Easterly III marked his 95th birthday Monday, April 20, at his Nicholasville home surrounded by family, friends and neighbors, some of whom traveled from out of state to honor the longtime former owner of the Jessamine Journal.

Amanda Burchfield and the other neighbors of Easterly's Equestrian Woods community organized the get-together, and Burchfield invited the Journal to attend.

"Mr. Ed is a part of our family, and we love serving him. He's a very interesting man of great courage, discipline and impeccable character," Burchfield said.

At the party, conversations were filled with admiration and compliments for "Mr. Ed," as he is affectionately referred to. Tales of his honesty and work ethic came from many guests, and people continue to have fond memories of the time he spent keeping the public informed through the Journal.

See **FORMER**, 2A

## Republican Party of Jessamine hosts annual Lincoln Day dinner

Staff Report

More than 300 gather at R.J. Corman Hangar 2 for evening of politics, community, and patriotic celebration

The Republican Party of Jessamine County hosted its annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Friday, April 17, at R.J. Corman Hangar 2, drawing more than 300 guests for an evening of political engagement, community service, and a celebration of America's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The evening opened with a

"Meet and Greet" that gave attendees the chance to speak directly with candidates running for city, county, state, and federal offices. Several local and state organizations were also on hand, sharing information at booths set up throughout the venue. Following a dinner catered by Gourmet Goodies, the program turned to a series of speeches from prominent candidates.

Speakers included Killian Timoney, candidate for Kentucky House District 45; Dr. Ralph Alvarado, Ryan Dotson,

See **REPUBLICAN**, 2A



More than 300 guests filled R.J. Corman Hangar 2 on Friday, April 17, for the Republican Party of Jessamine County's annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

## Commission denies Atlas Farm cluster development

Concerns over geology, flooding and infrastructure cited

By Casey Roberts  
Jessamine Journal

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. — The Jessamine County Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-1 on April 14 to deny an application

for a cluster development at 3555 Keene Road, known as Atlas Farm, following months of public concern over geology, flooding and infrastructure safety.

The decision came during a public hearing at the Jessamine County Courthouse, where residents, engineers and officials continued discussions surrounding a revised proposal

submitted by Keene Preserve LLC. The plan called for a cluster development and major agricultural subdivision spanning about 744 acres on A-1 zoned property along Ky. 169.

Jessamine County Engineer Henry Smith outlined the basis for the commission's decision, pointing to several regulatory and safety concerns.

Smith cited Subdivision

Regulation 4.102, which requires disapproval when topography or site conditions are deemed unsuitable. He also referenced engineering testimony that raised concerns about potential impacts to the area's karst basin, as well as a traffic study indicating a significant increase in traffic volume and a higher projected crash rate compared to similar roadways.

He said the commission also considered cluster development standards that discourage premature development and address infrastructure limitations. Additional testimony questioned whether the revised report submitted by the developer's engineer fully represented existing site conditions.

See **COMMISSION**, 2A

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